January-February

2016

News from the Parents Association

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Parent Association would like to thank the teachers and students for a lovely Christmas play; the talent on show was impressive. Also, thank you to the parents who made the party after such a success. Santa was very impressed. The Christmas cards this year and the calendar were warmly received and the parents association would like to thank Martha for her help with the photographs for the calendar. We have a few items of note from the last P.A. meeting of the 29th of January 2016.

Niamh Dunne is temporarily standing down from the role of Secretary. The Parents Association is asking if anyone would like to take over this role until Niamh's return please contact Morna. We would like to thank Niamh for her help with the P.A and hope to have her back soon.

If parents can continue to collect the Lee Strand Tokens for the school as there is a chance of winning in the monthly draws of jackpot of € 500.

The Parents Association would like to know; if anyone would be willing to volunteer technical support to the school to assist with any computer related issues. Please contact Yvonne at the school or Morna (0871914188)

More inside!

Next Proposed Parents Association meeting

29th February, 8pm, Teach an Solas

For your Diaries

Heidi has offered to organize another bake sale on Friday 29th April. If you can assist please contact Heidi.

The Bag Pack at Dunnes Stores, Horan Centre, will take place on 2nd and 3rd December this year. We will need the help of all parents. A rota will be available in the school and church closer to the time.

In other news…….

The school has been allocated an additional SNA. We would like to welcome Sara Clifford to our staff and wish to thank Brendan Griffin TD for his help in securing this position. Further details on staff of St. Johns Parochial School can be found on our website.

We would like to encourage the children to make healthy choices when selecting items for their lunchbox. We will shortly be creating a "Healthy School" policy in collaboration with the Parents Association. We welcome input from all parents on this so please contact the Parents Association if you wish to be involved.

The school website has been updated and the policies are available for viewing. The following policies have been updated in recent weeks: Special Educational Needs policy, Code of Discipline policy and Safety Statement.

Please check twitter feed on the school website for updates on closures and events in the school.

School Closures

18/02/2016 - 19/02/2016 **Mid-Term Break**
17/03/2016 - 17/03/2016 **St. Patrick's Day**
18/03/2016 - 01/04/2016 **Easter**
02/05/2016 - 06/05/2016 **May Bank Holiday**
06/06/2016 - 06/06/2016 **June Bank Holiday**

The School Day

Start Time	8:50
Break	10:55 – 11:05
Lunch	12:30 – 1:00
Home Time (Infants)	1:30
Home Time	2:30

For Your Information

It is very important that your child arrives to school on time each morning to ensure they get the most out of the school day.

School Tour

The school tour for both classes will take place on Thursday 9th June. The junior classroom will visit "Active Kingdom" in Tralee, while the Senior Classroom will visit Cappanalea Adventure Centre in Caragh Lake. We will only be able to allow children who have paid before 9th June to join the school tour.

cont.

What the children have been doing…..

Pancake Tuesday….

Both the Senior and Junior classes enjoyed a feast on Pancake Tuesday.

We would like to thank the parents who came in to make the pancakes it was a real treat for the children. Check out the school website for more photos of the day.

In Other News……..

1. We have updated our enrolment and anti-bullying polices. They are available for viewing on the school website.

2. There is a new morning supervision arangement in place. The children are supervised by a teacher in the yard from when the church gate is opened at 8.40 until they enter the school.

Grandparents Day…..

We celebrated "Grandparents Day" on Friday 5th February. The children listened to stories of childhood from the grandparents of the pupils of our school. We enjoyed hearing about how much life has changed since they were young. The children asked questions they had prepared. Thank you to all grandparents and great grandparents who participated

Your child and their learning

We have established a new reward program in the school to recognise good behaviour and hard work. Every Friday, we will appoint a "Star of the Week" and "Work of the Week" recipient in each class. These children will be awarded with a certificate in front of the whole school and will be displayed on a noticeboard in the school for the following week.
Good luck to all pupils!

Homework is an essential part of learning that allows for practising and consolidating work done in class. It is also an opportunity for you to encourage and support your child's education.

Please ensure your child has their homework completed each night. Please sign the homework journal when they have finished. If for any reason, they do not have their homework done, please write a short note for the teacher in their journal.

School Uniform

In recent weeks more and more children are arriving to school without their full school uniform. Please ensure your child wears their full school uniform each day in line with our new Code of Discipline. Ties can be purchased in the office. The wearing of the full uniform is important because it is a visual representation of St. Johns to the larger Tralee commuinity. It helps the children see that they are all part of the same school commuinity and engenders a sense of belonging in them.

The P.E. days are Thursday and Friday. Mícheal Quirke visits every second Monday to teach football skills. Please ensure your child wears the school tracksuit with runners and no jewellery, on these days.